

Message Text

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QUOTE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 18086

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SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON CAMBODIAN VISIT

REF: BANGKOK 17872

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY FOREIGN
MINISTER PHICHAI RATTAKUN ON JUNE 18 FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM
A TWO-DAY VISIT TO SISOPHON, CAMBODIA.

PHICHAI: I INVITED YOU TO A NEWS CONFERENCE HERE AT 01.00
P.M., AND I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING 27 MINUTES LATE, DUE TO WAIT-
ING FOR PICTURES FOR YOU TO SEE.

I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT, ACCCOMPANIED BY UNDER SECRETARY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANAN PANYARACHUN, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY
OF INTERIOR DAMRONG SUNTHORNSARATHUN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
OF THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT CHAWAN, AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, I WENT TO SISOPHON IN DEMOCRATIC
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KAMPUCHEA ON JUNE 16, AND WE RETURNED TO BANGKOK, REACHING
HERE AT NEARLY MIDNIGHT ON JUNE 17. THE MINISTRY HAS ALREADY
ISSUED A PRESS COMMUNIQUE BUT I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU A FEW
ADDITIONAL DETAIL.

FIRST, I DID NOT INFORM YOU BEFOREHAND OF THIS SERIES OF MEETING TO BE HELD BECAUSE WE ON BOTH SIDES WANTED THIS MEETING TO OBTAIN RESULTS AS WE WANTED. I THEREFORE DID NOT INFORM THE PEOPLE THROUGH MASS MEDIA BEFOREHAND. I, HOWEVER, INFORMED THE PRIME MINISTER, AND HELD CONSULTATIONS WITH HIM, THEN OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM HIM TO GO. I WENT TO HOLD A MEETING WITH THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA, MR. IENG SARY. WE HELD A SERIES OF MEETINGS ON THE TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS, JUNE 16 AND 17, WHICH LASTED TO NEARLY 6 P.M., ON JUNE 17, YESTERDAY. WE DISCUSSED AND HELD CONSULTATIONS ON SEVERAL SUBJECTS IN AN EXCELLENT ATMOSPHERE. A MOST WARM AND FRIENDLY WELCOME WAS EXTENDED TO OUR THAI DELEGATION.

THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED DURING OUR TALKS, ON WHICH I WISH TO GIVE YOU SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS, ARE:-

FIRST, I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT BOTH OUR COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED TO IMPLEMENT DEFINITE MEASURES IN ORDER TO LEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES IN PHNOM PENH AND IN BANGKOK. DEFINITE MEASURES HAVE BEEN ALREADY DRAFTED FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

SECOND, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FULL FACILITIES TO THE PEOPLE ON IN BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER, AS WELL AS TO OBTAIN GOOD RESULTS FROM COORDINATION OF WORK AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES, BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE AGREED TO COOPERATE IN USING BORDER MARKINGS THAT CAN BE SEEN MUCH MORE CLEARLY, AND WHICH SHOULD BE PUT UP MUCH CLOSER TO EACH OTHER. FOR INSTANCE, BORDER MARKINGS BETWEEN BORDER MAKING NO. 44 TO NO. 49 ARE AT FAR TO A GREAT DISTANCES FROM EACH OTHER, AND ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO BORDER MARKING NO. 48 AND NO. 49, WHICH ARE AT AS GREAT A DISTANCE AS 18.2 KILOMETERS FROM EACH OTHER. IF BORDER MARKINGS ARE AT AS GREAT A DISTANCE AS 18.2 KILOMETERS APART, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPECT THE PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES TO KNOW WHERE THE BORDER IS. THIS EASILY CAUSES MISUNDERSTANDINGS. WE HAVE THEREFORE AGREED FOR BOTH UNCLASSIFIED

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OUR COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL OFFICIALS, OR OFFICIALS WITH SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE ON BORDER DELINEATION TO COOPERATE WITH THE THAI-KAMPUCHA JOINT BORDER COMMITTEE IN MAKING A JOINT SURVEY OF BORDER MARKINGS CONCENTRATING ESPECIALLY ON THE BORDER FROM BORDER MARKING NO. 48 TO NO. 49, WHICH ARE AS FAR APART AS 18.2 KILOMETERS, AS I HAVE INFORMED YOU ALREADY. WHEN ADDITIONAL BORDER MARKINGS ARE SET UP, AND WHICH ARE MORE CLOSELY SPACED, THE PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER WILL NO LONGER BE FACED WITH ANY PROBLEM, BECAUSE THE DEMARCATON OF THE BORDER WILL BE SEEN CLEARLY.

THIRD, REGARDING THAI FISHING BOATS AND CREWS OF THAI FISHING BOATS WHO WERE ARRESTED AND ARE BEING DETAINED IN

CUSTODY IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA, I BROUGHT UP THIS ISSUE DURING OUR TALKS AND CONSULTATIONS. MR. IEENG SARY PROMISED TO INFORM US OF DETAILS AND RESULTS OF CONSIDERATION OF THE PROBLEM, SENDING US THE INFORMATION VIA THE THAI-KAMPUCHEA JOINT BORDER COMMITTEE BY JUNE 30.

THESE ARE THE THREE POINTS AT ISSUE ON WHICH I WISHED TO GIVE YOU ADDITIONAL DETAILS FROM THE OPPORTUNITY I HAD TO HOLD TALKS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH MR. IEENG SARY INSISOPHON.

REPORTER: WHERE ARE BORDER MARKINGS NOS. 48-49?

PHICHAI: TAPHYA, PRACHINBURI PROVINCE.

REPORT: ISN'T ANG SILA, WHERE AN INCIDENT OCCURRED FARILY RECENTLY, THERE? SISOPHON.

REPORTER: WHERE ARE BORDER MARKINGS NOS. 48-49?

PHICHAI: TAPHYA, PRACHINBURI PROVINCE.

REPORT: ISN'T ANG SILA, WHERE AN INCIDENT OCCURED FAILY RECENTLY, THERE?

PHICHAI: YES.

REPORTER: WHEN ALL EMBASSIES BE OPENED IN PHNOM PENH AND IN BANGKOK?

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PHICHAI: AS I HAVE ALREADY INFORMED YOU, MR. IEENG SARY AND I REACHED AGREEMENT ON DEFINITE MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED WHICH WILL LEAD TO THE OPENING OF EMBASSIES. BUT I AM NOT ABLE TO GIVE YOU A DATE YET ON WHICH THEY WILL BE OPENED.

REPORTER: MEASURES DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE ANY TIME LIMIT. HAVE THESE MEASURES ANY FIXED TIME LIMIT?

PHICHAI: I WISH TO POINT OUT TO YOU THAT MEASURES HAVE BEEN DRAFTED AND AGREED ON, MEASURES WHICH WILL BE DEFINITELY IMPLEMENTED.

REPORTER: WILL IT BE VERY SOON?

PHICHAI: I CAN ONLY INFORM YOU NOW THAT DEFINITE MEASURES HAVE BEEN DRAFTED ALREADY.

REPORTER: HAS A PLEDGE OR GUARANTEE BE GIVEN US REGARDING THE SECURITY OF THE AMBASSADOR AND MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF WE WILL SEND TO PHNOM PENH?

PHICHAI: OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY OPENED THEIR

EMBASSIES IN PHNOM PENH. THERE ARE SEVERAL EMBASSIES THERE NOW. MY VIEW IS THAT IT WILL BE LIKE VARIOUS COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE, WE MUST PROVIDE SECURITY FOR FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WHO ARE APPOINTED TO OUR COUNTRY. OTHER COUNTRIES MUST ADHERE TO INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS, AND THEY MUST CONFORM TO INTERNATIONAL LAW, IN PROVIDING SECURITY FOR FOREIGN DIPLOMATS.

REPORTER: WERE ANY CONDITIONS DEMANDED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS HELD?

PHICHAI: PLEASE UNDERSTAND CLEARLY, THAT THERE WERE NO CONDITIONS WHATSOEVER IN THESE TALKS HELD.

REPORTER: WAS THE SUBJECT OF TRADE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES DISCUSSED DURING THE TALKS?

PHICHAI: I WANT TO HOLD TALKS ON SUBJECTS OF GREATER UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPORTANCE, BUT TRADE WAS DISCUSSED ALSO. THE DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA DELEGATION PROPOSED THE NAME OF AN ORGANIZATION, WHICH IS A STATE COMPANY KAMPUCHEA HAS SET UP, FOR OUR CONSIDERATION. ON OUR PART, OUR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS REQUESTED THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE TO CONSIDER AND SELECT A THAI COMPANY IN BANGKOK, IN THAILAND; WE WILL THEN SEND THE NAME SELECTED BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE TO KAMPUCHEA FOR CONSIDERATION. THEN A START WILL HAVE BEEN MADE, LEADING TO TRADE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

REPORTER: THEN THERE IS STILL TRADE ONLY ACCROSS THE BORDER, AT POIPET?

PHICHAI: FRANKLY SPEAKING, THE BORDER IS CLOSED AT PRESENT. THEREFORE, THERE IS NOT ANY LEGAL TRADE AT ALL YET.

REPORTER: WAS THE REOPENING OF THE BORDER DISCUSSED DURING THE TALKS?

PHICHAI: IT WASN'T MENTIONED AT ALL.

REPORTER: WAS THE SUBJECT OF REFUGEES BROUGHT UP DURING THE TALKS?

PHICHAI: WE DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES, AND WE INFORMED THE KAMPUCHEA GOVERNMENT OF OUR STANDPOINT ON THE ISSUE OF REFUGEES. WE EMPHASIZED THAT THE LARGE NUMBER OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES WHO HAVE FLED TO THAILAND IS MAKING US SHOULDER A VERY HEAVY BURDEN, BOTH IN HAVING TO PROVIDE THOSE REFUGEES WITH A PLACE TO LIVE IN AND TO FEED THEM. EVEN THOUGH WE ARE BEING GIVEN COOPERATION BY THE U.N. AND BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS,

THE THAI GOVERNMENT STILL HAS TO SHOULDER A VERY HEAVY BURDEN. BUT THE AID WE ARE GIVING REFUGEES IS AID FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY. SINCE THIS IS THE SITUATION, THE ADVICE WE HAVE KAMPUCHEA IS FOR IT TO PROCLAIM OPENLY AND LOUDLY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD THAT IT WISHES CAMBODIAN REFUGEES WHO ARE IN THAILAND TO RETURN TO KAMPUCHEA, IF POSSIBLE. BUT FROM THE ANGLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND FROM THAT OF HUMANITY, ALL REFUGEES MUST RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL. THE THAI GOVERNMENT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT ABLE TO COMPEL, OR PUT PRESSURE IN ANY FORM ON REFUGEES TO LEAVE THAILAND AND RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND. THEREFORE, THE ADVICE WE HAVE GIVEN TO THE KAMPUCHEA GOVERNMENT IS FOR IT TO ALLOW THE U.N. HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES TO GO AND SET UP AN OFFICE IN PHNOM PENH. IT WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH OR MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR REFUGEES WHO WISH TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IN KAMPUCHEA. MR. IENG SARY PROMISED HE WOULD BRING UP OUR ADVICE AND SUGGESTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY HIS GOVERNMENT.

REPORTER: HOW DID YOU TRAVEL TO KAMPUCHEA ON THIS TRIP? DID YOU GO BY TRAIN, BY MOTORCAR, OR BY PLANE?

PHICHAJ: WE WENT BY MOTORCARS.

REPORTER: THE WHOLE WAY?

PHICHAJ: YES, WE WENT BY MOTORCARS THE WHOLE WAY.

REPORTER: DID YOU ALSO GO BY MOTORCAR FROM POIPET TO SISOPHON? HOW LONG DID THAT TAKE?

PHICHAJ: IT TOOK ABOUT ONE HOUR, BECAUSE WE WERE DRIVING SLOWLY. THE ROAD IS GOOD, AND THOUGH ONLY SOME PARTS OF IT HAVE BEEN ASPHALTED, IT IS A GOOD AND STRONG, AS WELL AS A SMOOTH, ROAD.

REPORTER: WHAT DID YOU SEE ON THE WAY?

PHICHAJ: HUGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WERE WORKING IN RICE-FIELDS. RICE CULTIVATION IS IN THE FORM OF COOPERATIVES.

REPORTER:

PHICHAJ: AS SOON AS I HAD PUT AWAY MY BAG, WE STARTED WORK AT ONCE. THAT MEANS THAT MEETINGS, CONSULTATIONS, AND TALKS WERE HELD AT ONCE AND ALL THE TIME.

REPORTER: WHAT WAS THE SITE OF THE MEETING?

PHICHAJ: I DIDN'T ASK ANYBODY WHAT IT HAD BEEN USED FOR

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IN THE PAST.

REPORTER: WAS IT A MILITARY CAMP, OR WHAT DID IT LOOK LIKE?

PHICHAO: IT WASN'T A MILITARY CAMP. IT IS A BRICK HOUSE. I BELIEVE THAT IT WAS THE RESIDENCE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNOR OF SISOPHON DURING COLONIAL TIMES. I AM SPEAKING OF THE HOUSE IN WHICH I AND THE UNDER SECRETARY STAYED. THERE WAS ANOTHER HOUSE, VERY SIMILAR TO OUR THAI HOUSES IN ANCIENT TIMES. IT WAS A BIG HOUSE, WITH MANY ROOMS FOR THE OFFICIALS IN OUR DELEGATION TO STAY IN.

REPORTER: WHO WERE THE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY ACCOMPANYING MR. IENG SARY?

PHICHAO: AMONG THE PERSONS ACCOMPANYING MR. IENG SARY, THERE WAS THE UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IEK CHUUN, THE FORMER AMBASSADOR TO SENEGAL AND THE FORMER AMBASSADOR TO PEKING. I AM HAVING PICTURES DEVELOPED TO DISTRIBUTE TO YOU, BUT THEY ARE NOT DRY YET.

REPORTER: WHO TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN ARRANGING THIS MEETING BETWEEN YOU AND MR. IENG SARY?

PHICHAO: WE HAVE A LIAISON OFFICE AT THE BORDER, WHICH IS IN CONTACT ALL THE TIME WITH A COUNTERPART LIAISON OFFICE IN POIPET. IN REGARD TO THIS MEETING, I TOOK THE INITIATIVE, BECAUSE I WISHED TO MEET AND HOLD TALKS WITH MR. IENG SARY.

REPORTER: WHEN MAJ. GEN. CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN WAS FOREIGN MINISTER, HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO PROPOSE A MEETING, BUT IT HAD TO BE POSTPONED. DID YOU MAKE CONTACT FOR THAT MEETING ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO BE HELD?

PHICHAO: I TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING A MEETING AND TALKS, NOT EVEN MENTIONING THE MEETING PROPOSED BY MAJ. GEN. CHATCHAI AND ITS POSTPONEMENT. WE STARTED THE TALKS BY EMPHASIZING THE JOINT THAI-KAMPUCHEA COMMUNIQUE, ISSUED ON OCTOBER 31, 1975, WHEN MR. IENG SARY ENDED HIS VISIT TO BANGKOK. AFTER REAFFIRMING SATISFACTORY DEVELOPMENTS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, I EXPRESSED OUR DESIRE FOR GREATER PROGRESS TO BE MADE, THEREFORE I HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN REQUESTING A MEETING WITH MR. IENG SARY, IN MY CAPACITY AS FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. BUT ALL NEGOTIATIONS HELD WERE BASED ON THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE

ISSUED ON OCTOBER 31, 1975.

REPORTER: WHAT REASON WAS THERE FOR KEEPING YOUR TRIP TO KAMPUCHEA SUCH A TOP SECRET?

PHICHAJ: IT WAS BECAUSE BOTH SIDES DID NOT WANT ANY REPORTS LEAKING OUT BEFORE I LEFT FOR SISOPHON, AS WELL AS DURING OUR MEETING AND TALKS. AFTER THE MEETING AND TALKS HAD BEEN HELD, THE MINISTRY ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT TODAY, AND PHNOM PENH ALSO ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT SIMULTANEOUSLY. THIS, HOWEVER, IS CALLED A JOINT PRESS STATEMENT, NOT A JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

REPORTER: WAS THE MEETING KEPT A SECRET OUT OF FEAR THAT A THIRD COUNTRY WOULD INTERFERE?

PHICHAJ: OH NO* I WISH TO ASSERT THAT NO SUCH FEAR WAS FELT. BOTH SIDES ONLY AGREED TO KEEP THE MEETING A SECRET UNTIL AFTER THE MEETING AND TALKS WERE OVER, THEN BOTH SIDES WOULD ISSUE STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS AT ONCE.

REPORTER: DID YOU SEE ANY PEOPLE ALONG BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD YOU PASSED?

PHICHAJ: OF COURSE I SAW PEOPLE ALONG BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD. AS I HAVE SAID ALREADY, THERE WERE A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WORKING IN THE RICEFIELDS, THAT RICE CULTIVATION IS IN THE FORM OF COOPERATIVES. FOR INSTANCE, WHEN TRANSPLANTING RICE, IT IS CARRIED ON BY LARGE GROUPS OF PEOPLE. WE COULD SEE THEM TRANSPLANTING RICE AS FAR AS WE COULD SEE IN THE FIELDS. SIMILARLY, WHEN THE LAND IS BEING PLOWED BEFORE SOWING THE RICE, IT IS CARRIED OUT BY LARGE GROUPS OF PEOPLE SIMULTANEOUSLY.

REPORTER: A REPORT PUBLISHED IN ONE OF OUR PAPERS STATED THAT HUMAN BEINGS ARE HARNESSSED TO PLOWS INSTEAD UNCLASSIFIED

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OF BUFFALOES, IN KAMPUCHEA. IS THAT TRUE?

PHICHAJ: I DIDN'T SEE ANYBODY...WHAT I MEANT WAS: WHEN TRANSPLANTING RICE, EVERYBODY COOPERATES IN TRANSPLANTING IT; WHEN PLOWING FIELDS, OXEN OR BUFFALOES ARE USED AND EVERYBODY LENDS A HAND; IN SOME PLACES TRACTORS ARE USED FOR PLOWING.

REPORTER: WHAT ARE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF WORKERS IN KAMPUCHEA?

PHICHAJ: AS I HAVE SAID ALREADY, I ONLY SAW PEOPLE WORKING IN THE FIELDS. I DIDN'T GO AND PUT MY NOSE INTO EVERY-

THING. I CAN ONLY TELL YOU WHAT I SAW ALONG THE ROAD AS
I PASSED BY.

REPORTER: WERE THE PEOPLE YOU SAW SMILING? DID THEY
LOOK HAPPY?

PHICHAI: IT'S DIFFICULT TO COMMENT ON FACES SEEN.
PERSONS WHO LOOK GLUM MIGHT BE SMILING AND HAPPY AT
HEART, AND VICE VERSA. I THEREFORE HAVE NO COMMENT TO
MAKE.

REPORTER: WHAT DID THE KAMPUCHEA LEADER TELL YOU REGARD-
ING CONDITIONS IN HIS COUNTRY.

PHICHAI: ALL HE SID IS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT MUST REBUILD
THEIR COUNTRY, CONCENTRATING ESPECIALLY ON AGRICULTURE.
AND WE SAW ALONG BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD WE PASSED HOW RICE
CULTIVATION IS BEING CARRIED ON ON A VERY LARGE SCALE AND
IN EARNEST.

REPORTER:

PHICHAI: HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT CROPS WILL BE GOOD.

REPORTER: WHAT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS DOES KAMPUCHEA
HAVE?

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PHICHAI:I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO HAVE CONVERSATIONS WITH
HIM ON SUCH SUBJECTS. I CONCENTRATED MAINLY ON POLITICAL
TALKS WITH HIM.

REPORTER: WHAT WILL BE DONE REGARDING THE FISHING BOATS
AND THEIR CREWS, WHO WERE ARRESTED?

PHICHAI: AS I HAVE SAID ALREADY, I BROUGHT UP THAT ISSUE
DURING OUR TALKS AND MR. IENG SARY PROMISED TO INFORM US
OF DETAILS AND RESULTS OF CONSIDERATION OF THEIR CASE BY
JUNE 30. I MYSELF FEEL VERY ANXIOUS AND WORRIED OVER THE
MATTER.

REPORTER: HOW WILL YOU OBTAIN THE INFORMATION?

PHICHAI: THROUGH THE JOINT LIAISON OFFICES, WHICH MUST
STILL CONTINUE IN OPERATION.

REPORTER: WILL BORDER MAKINGS HAVE TO BE PUT UP AS
PART OF THE REDELINEATION OF THE BORDER?

PHICHAI: THERE WILL BE NO REDELINEATION OF THE BORDER.
BORDER MARKINGS EXIST ALREADY, BUT THE PROBLEM FACED IS

THAT THEY ARE SET UP AT FAR TOO GREAT A DISTANCE FROM EACH OTHER. FOR EXAMPLE, THE DISTANCE BETWEEN BORDER MARKING NO. 48 AND NO. 49 IS AS GREAT AS OVER 18 KILOMETERS.

NORMALLY, THERE OUGHT TO BE CEMENT MARKINGS PLACED TO SHOW WHERE THE BORDER IS, OR HOW IT MAY TWIST AND TURN BETWEEN THOSE TWO BORDER MARKINGS. BUT THERE ARE NO CEMENT MARKINGS ALONG THAT OVER 18 KILOMETERS TO SHOW WHERE THE BORDER IS, THUS BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCIDENTS THAT OCCURRED IN ANG SILA AND IN TA PHYA. WE HAVE THEREFORE SAID THAT EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO LAY DOWN CEMENT BORDER MARKINGS AS NEAR TO EACH OTHER AS POSSIBLE.

REPORTER: IT IS SAID THAT THE BORDER DELINEATION IN OUR MAP DIFFERS FROM THAT IN THE KAMPUCHEA MAP, THUS ALSO BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR BORDER PROBLEMS OCCURRING?

PHICHAO: THERE IS NO PROBLEM CAUSED BY MAPS DELINEATING THE BORDER. MAPPING IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OFFICIALS
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WHO POSSESS SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE. IN THAILAND, IT IS THE DUTY OF THE SURVEY AND MAPPING DEPARTMENT.

I HOWEVER, REGARD THE PROBLEM FROM A POLITICAL ANGLE, BECAUSE I DO NOT WISH ANY MISUNDERSTANDING TO BE CAUSED, OR FOR THE PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER TO BE FACED WITH ANY PROBLEM OR INCIDENT DUE TO UNINTENTIONAL MISUNDERSTANDING ON BOTH SIDES. THEREFORE, FROM A POLITICAL ANGLE, THE PRACTICAL METHOD TO PUT AN END TO THIS BORDER PROBLEM WOULD BE BY PLACING A GREATLY INCREASED NUMBER OF CEMENT MAKERS AS CLOSE TO EACH OTHER AS POSSIBLE ALONG THE BORDER.

REPORTER: WHEN WILL THAT PLAN BE STARTED?

PHICHAO: I MUST MAKE CONTACT IN PRINCIPLE, THEN TECHNICAL OFFICIALS MUST BE APPOINTED TO COOPERATE WITH TECHNICAL OFFICIALS OF KAMPUCHEA, IN ORDER FOR THEM TO GO AND LAY DOWN ADDITIONAL BORDER MARKINGS. I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE REGARDING THE METHOD USED TO LAY DOWN OR TO SET UP BORDER MARKINGS. I WENT TO HOLD A MEETING AND TALKS, ONLY IN ORDER TO FIND A WAY TO REMEDY THIS PROBLEM.

REPORTER: HOW WERE THE RESULTS YOU OBTAINED FROM THIS MEETING AND TALKS WITH MR. IENG SARY?

PHICHAO: I FEEL THAT EXCELLENT RESULTS WERE OBTAINED. MY MEETING AND TALKS WITH MR. IENG SARY GAVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO: 1. REASSERT THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON OCTOBER 31, 1975; 2. TO PLAN DEFINITE MEASURES THAT WILL LEAD TO THE MUTUAL REESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES 3. FOR ADDITIONAL BORDER MAKINGS TO BE SET UP AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE, IN ORDER TO PREVENT PROBLEMS CAUSED BY IGNO-

RANCE OF WHERE THE BORDER IS; AND 4. MR. IENG SARY WILL INFORM US OF DETAILS AND RESULTS OF CONSIDERATION OF CASES OF THAI FISHERMEN, WHO WERE ARRESTED AND ARE BEING DETAINED IN CUSTODY IN KAMPUCHEA, BY JUNE 30.

REPORTER: HAVE YOU PLANNED TO HOLD ANOTHER MEETING AND TALKS WITH MR. IENG SARY, AND WHEN?

PHICHAO: WE DIDN'T FIX A DATE FOR ANOTHER MEETING
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BECAUSE WE REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON ALL SUBJECTS WE HELD TALKS ON. THIS MEANS THAT THE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE CAN START WORK.

REPORTER: WILL THE BORDER BE REOPENED BEFORE THE REESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES?

PHICHAO: REOPENING THE BORDER DOES NOT CONCERN THE REESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES.

REPORTER: IF THE BORDER WERE NOT REOPENED, WOULD IT BE AN OBSTACLE OBSTRUCTING THE REESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES?

PHICHAO: IT IS A FACT THAT MR. IENG SARY DID NOT EVEN MENTION THE REOPENING OF THE BORDER, NOR DID HE URGE US TO REOPEN IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE DID NOT BRING UP THE SUBJECT AT ALL, AND WE DID NOT DISCUSS IT DURING OUR TALKS.

REGARDING LEGAL OPERATION OF TRADE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN THE FUTURE, IT IS CERTAIN AND ONLY VERY ORDINARY FOR THE BORDER TO BE REOPENED WHEN LEGAL TRADE IS STARTED. THE REOPENING OF THE BORDER, HOWEVER, CONCERNS POLICY AT GOVERNMENT LEVEL, THEREFORE I WILL HAVE TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, WITH THE CABINET, AND WITH THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, BEFORE ANY DEFINITE DECISION CAN BE REACHED.

REPORTER: NEWS REPORTS STILL STATE THAT HELICOPTERS PILOTED BY REFUGEES ARE CONTINUING TO COME TO THAILAND FROM KAMPUCHEA. WAS THAT BROUGHT UP FOR DISCUSSION, OR MENTIONED, DURING YOUR TALKS WITH MR. IENG SARY?

PHICHAO: A HELICOPTER FLEW HERE LAST MONTH, IN MAY. I DID NOT ATTEND THE CABINET MEETING LAST TUESDAY, WHEN IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. I HAD ALREADY LEFT BANGKOK ON TUESDAY, JUNE 15, AND TODAY IS FRIDAY.

REPORTER: BUT WASN'T IT DISCUSSED DURING YOUR TALKS?

PHICHAO: MR. IENG SARY DID NOT BRING IT UP AT ALL DURING

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OUR MEETINGS AND TALKS, EVIDENTLY BECAUSE HE CONSIDERED IT AS BEING A MINOR PROBLEM. WE CONCENTRATED MAINLY, AND ALMOST ENTIRELY, ON MAJOR PROBLEMS. IF YOU HAVE NO MORE QUESTION... END OF CAMBODIAN ISSUE.

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